

The Rescue Mama

Life inspired by a house full of rescued pets...

Fun Summer Table Setting



With summer finally arriving in Minnesota Bret and my schedules and eating habits get more spontaneous and definitely more casual. Its time for grill food and casual gatherings with friends and neighbors.



I set up the kitchen table this year to reflect my earthy cottage/ flea market style. I like every nook and cranny in my house to say to all who visit us “welcome... this is a place to relax, laugh and rest.” My style also reflects our love for our animals and this setting seems to tie it all together.

Zen kitty (found on sale at Pier One) is the center of the table and she is offset with the large crystal candle handle that was a gift from my dad. Who puts burlap, kitty statues, metal buckets and crystal together...I do...it says to me that everyone and everything can fit together in a lovely way. I added a cow bell that I found at a flea market and my mason jar salt and pepper shakers that I found for \$1 at a rummage. It all ties together with color rather than textures.



I set my table in the summer with a mis-matched collection of flea market China. I love giving a home to beautiful orphan plates of all designs. It gives me a chance to have beautiful china that I can use everyday and never worry about breaking because none of it matches anyway! I wanted to have my silverware sitting right on the table to go with our casual approach to summer dinner.



I made my silverware holders with these old bed springs I purchased at a flea market. The individual bed springs are really widely available now; I can usually find them for less than \$2. I put them in mason jars, placed a piece of burlap inside the spring and folded it over; tying it in place with a short strand of jute. I made two jars; one for knives and one for forks.

Like my plates; I have a love for pretty, orphaned and mis-matched silverware. I like having as many pretty patterns on the table as I can!



I also wanted to have a fun and easy way to have napkins on the table.



I used an inexpensive metal bucket that I ordered from Oriental Trading Company. I get these buckets for \$5.99 and usually keep a few on hand because they are such a fun and easy way to wrap up an odd shaped gift.

I used Beacon's glue to attach burlap and buttons and some scrabble letters randomly to the bucket. I filled the bucket with paper towels and/or some really cute patterned napkins I found on sale. (The Party Store is a great source for fun napkins – shop after the season has changed for the best deals).

I hope you find this tutorial an inspiration for your own table settings. Please check out our other craft tutorials at www.therescuemama.com